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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of: **Hiroshi MIZUGUCHI et al.**

Group Art Unit: **3617**

Serial No.: **10/757,389**

Examiner: **Andrew D. Wright**

Filed: **January 15, 2004**

Confirmation No.: **4948**

For: **OUTBOARD MOTOR SHIFT MECHANISM**

Attorney Docket Number: **042005**

Customer Number: **38834**

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**  
**DATED December 29, 2004**

Commissioner of Patents  
Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

January 25, 2005

Sir:

In response to the Requirement for an Election of Species dated December 29, 2004, the applicants provisionally elect to prosecute the Species of Group A: outboard motor with shock mitigator, claims 1-10.

The applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application on the non-elected claims.

The applicants respectfully request an early examination on the elected claims and favorable action on the merits. If the Examiner has any questions with this Response, please feel free to call the undersigned at telephone number indicated below.

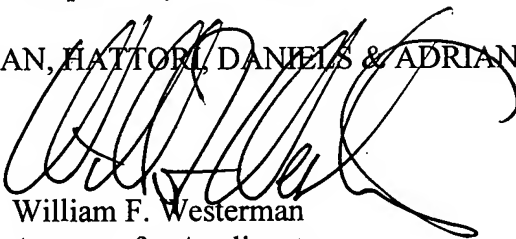
In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

**Application Serial No. 10/757,389**

In the event any additional fees are required in connection with this response, please charge  
our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to William F. Westerman, is written over the firm name.

William F. Westerman  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 29,988

WFW/meu

1250 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
(202) 822-1100